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TO: Commissioner for Patents

Attn: Examiner M. Rutland Wallis

Mail Stop Amendment

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DATE: April 24, 2006

FROM: David M. Crompton

OUR REF: 1018.1181101 TELEPHONE: 612-677-9050

Total pages, including cover letter: 8

PTO FAX NUMBER: 571-273-8300

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Title of Document(s) Transmitted: ______ Applicant: Toshimasa Shibagaki et ao.

Serial No.: 10/649,019 Filed: August 27, 2003 Group Art Unit: 2835

Our Ref. No.: 1018.1181101 Confirmation No.: 5912 Customer No.: 28075

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PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Toshimasa Shibagaki et al.

Confirmation No.: 5912

Serial No.:

10/649,019

Examiner: M. Rutland Wallis

Filing Date:

August 27, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2835

Docket No.:

1018.1181101

Customer No.: 28075

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AMENDMENT

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April 24, 2006

Date

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed January 25, 2006, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on April 25, 2006. This paper is filed within the set period for response such that no extension of time is necessary.

Please consider the following amendments and/or remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.